



Last Updated: 03/09/2022

Cox-2 Clinical Edits, Phase III of the Virginia Medicaid Preferred Drug List (PDL) Program, and PDA Download for PDL Quick List- July 2004

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you of the 12 new therapeutic drug classes that will be part of the Virginia Medicaid's Preferred Drug List (PDL) Program effective July 1, 2004, the new clinical edits that affect the COX-2 drug class effective July 1, and the new Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) Download for the PDL Quick List.

Preferred Drug List (PDL)

As you are aware, the PDL is a list of preferred drugs by therapeutic drug class for which the Medicaid program will allow payment without requiring Prior Authorization (PA). In the designated classes, drug products that do not appear on the PDL will be subject to PA. Because there are provisions for a 72-hour supply of necessary medications, this initiative will not cause an individual to be left without an appropriate drug therapy.

This represents Phase III in the PDL implementation. The Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) implemented Phase I of the PDL in January 2004, with 13 therapeutic drug classes and Phase II in April 2004, with six additional therapeutic drug classes. Phase III of the PDL will be implemented in July 2004, with an additional 12 therapeutic drug classes. An updated list of the preferred drugs within each class (with the exception of the Long Acting Narcotics therapeutic drug class, which will be updated at a later date) is attached with this memo.

The PDL is effective for the Medicaid, MEDALLION, and FAMIS-Plus (Medicaid Children) fee-for-service populations. The PDL **does not** apply to patients enrolled in a



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Managed Care Organization (MCO) or FAMIS enrollees. DMAS implemented the PDL program to provide

clinically effective and safe drugs to its clients at the best available price. Your continued assistance with this program is critical to its success.

Set forth below are the therapeutic drug classes for the July 2004, PDL - Phase III implementation:

- Carbonic Anhydrase Inhibitors - Ophthalmic
- **Alpha 2 Adrenergics - Ophthalmic**
- **Beta-blockers - Ophthalmic**
- **Prostaglandin Inhibitors - Ophthalmic**
- **Antihyperkinesis/CNS Stimulants (Medications For ADD/ADHD)**
- **Macrolides - Adult (Antibiotics)**
- **Macrolides - Pediatrics (Antibiotics)**
- **2nd Generation Quinolones - Systemic (Antibiotics)**



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- **3rd Generation Quinolones - Systemic (Antibiotics)**
- **2nd Generation Cephalosporins (Antibiotics)**
- **3rd Generation Cephalosporins (Antibiotics)**
- **Long Acting Narcotics (please note that this therapeutic drug class is not addressed on the PDL Quicklist attached with this Medicaid Memo; it will be updated in a separate Medicaid Memo)**

To access the complete list of the pharmaceutical products included on the Virginia Preferred Drug List please visit <http://www.dmas.virginia.gov/pharm-home.htm> or <http://virginia.fhsc.com>.

Prior Authorization (PA) Process

Phase III of the PDL program will be implemented on July 1, 2004, beginning with informational messages ("soft edits") displaying to the pharmacists. This will allow pharmacists the opportunity to inform the client of the PA requirement on the next request. Full PA requirements ("hard edits") will be phased-in for 11 of the 12 therapeutic drug classes on August 2 and 9 (please note that the Long Acting Narcotics therapeutic drug class will not be included in

the August 2 or August 9 phase-in dates. This issue will be addressed in a separate Medicaid Memo). The PDL phase-in schedule for the Phase III therapeutic drug classes is attached to this memo.

A message indicating that a drug requires a PA will be displayed at Point of Sale (POS) when a non-preferred drug is dispensed. Pharmacists should contact the patient's provider requesting them to initiate the PA process. Prescribers can initiate PA requests by letter, by **faxing** the attached form to **800-932-6651**, or by contacting the First Health Services' Clinical Call Center at **800-932-6648**. PA requests by fax or mail will be responded to within 24 hours of receipt. A copy of the PA form is attached and is



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also available at <http://www.dmas.virginia.gov/pharm-home.htm> or at <http://virginia.fhsc.com>. The PDL criteria for PA purposes is also available on both websites.

Preferred Drug List (PDL) - 72 Hour Supply Processing Policy

The PDL Program provides for a process where the pharmacist may dispense a 72-Hour Supply of a non-preferred, prescribed medication if the physician is not available to consult with the pharmacist, including after hours, weekends, holidays, and the pharmacist, in his professional judgment consistent with current standards of practice, feels that the patient's health would be compromised without the benefit of the drug. The 72-Hour Supply will require a phone call by the pharmacy provider to **First Health Services Corporation (FHSC) at 800-932-6648** for processing.

The patient will be charged a co-payment for this 72-Hour Supply (partial fill). However, a co-payment will not be charged for the completion fill. The prescription must be processed as a "partial" and "completion" fill.

For unit of use drugs (i.e., inhalers, drops, etc.), the entire unit should be dispensed and appropriate action taken to prevent similar situations in the future.

Preferred Drug List (PDL)-72-Hour Supply Dispensing Fee Process

Pharmacy providers are entitled to an additional \$3.75 dispensing fee when filling the completion of a 72-hour supply prescription for a non-preferred drug. To receive the additional dispensing fee, the pharmacist must submit the 72-hour supply as a partial fill, and when submitting the claim for the completion fill, enter "03" in the "Level of Service" (data element 418-DI) field. The additional \$3.75 dispensing fee is **ONLY** available (*one time per prescription*) to the pharmacist after dispensing the completion fill of a non-preferred drug when a partial (72-Hour Supply) prescription was previously filled.



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Any questions regarding the PDL process can be referred to First Health Services Corporation (FHSC) at 800-932-6648.

Medicaid, MEDALLION, and FAMIS-Plus fee-for-service individuals with questions about the PDL should be directed to the First Health Patient HelpLine at 800-932-3923.

Clinical Edits for COX-2 Inhibitors

As you are aware, the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee (P&T), previously reviewed the COX-2 Inhibitor therapeutic drug class during Phase I of the PDL implementation. At that time, it was determined that one drug was preferred and the remaining drugs in that class would be available through PA.

In addition, the P&T Committee has decided to implement clinical edits for the COX-2 Inhibitor therapeutic drug class. The purpose of this edit is to prevent inappropriate use of COX-2 inhibitors in patients **without** indications for use and to contain drug costs. Additionally, the edits are expected to reduce the potential for adverse events associated with chronic, high-dose COX-2 use.

NSAIDs are one of the most commonly prescribed classes of drugs. COX-2 inhibitors are members of the NSAID drug class, but differ in their selectivity for the COX-2 isoenzyme. Three selective COX-2 inhibitors (also known as COX-1 sparing agents) are currently available in the United States: celecoxib (Celebrex[®]), rofecoxib (Vioxx[®]), and valdecoxib (Bextra[®]).

All three agents have FDA approved indications for the treatment of osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis in adults, and primary dysmenorrhea. Additionally, celecoxib and rofecoxib have indications for the treatment of acute pain, and celecoxib is approved for the reduction of adenomatous colorectal polyps in patients with familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP).



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Effective July 1, 2004, those patients under 60 years of age with a new prescription for COX-2 therapy will require a PA. A message indicating that the drug requires a PA will be displayed at POS.

The clinical edit will only affect those patients under age 60 who have a new prescription for any of the COX-2 drugs. **Those patients who are under 60 and have been on COX-2 therapy between January and June 30, 2004, will be able to continue without disruption of service until their current prior authorization expires, or until June 30, 2005, which ever comes first.**

Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) Download for PDL Quicklist

We have established a new link on the DMAS website (www.dmas.virginia.gov), that will enable providers to download the PDL Quicklist to their PDAs. To access this link please click on **"pharmacy" > "pharmacy initiatives" > "PDL Quicklist PDA Format"**. This page will have full directions to complete the download and HotSync operations. DMAS is currently evaluating the use of ePocrates.

"PHARMACY/PRIOR AUTHORIZATION HELPLINE"

The First Health Clinical Call Center can be reached at **800-932-6648**, to answer your questions regarding the PDL, COX-2 edits, Pro-DUR and PA requests. Requests for Prior Authorization can be initiated by letter, by faxing the enclosed form to **800-932-6651**, or by contacting the First Health Services' Clinical Call Center at **800-932-6648**. PA requests can also be mailed to:

**First Health Services
Corporation 4300 Cox Road**

Glen Allen, VA 23060



Department of Medical Assistance Services
600 East Broad Street
Suite 1300
Richmond, VA 23219

<https://dmas.virginia.gov>

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ATTN: MAP Department/VA Medicaid

Comments regarding this program may be sent to the P&T Committee at pdlinput@dmas.virginia.gov.

ELIGIBILITY AND CLAIMS STATUS INFORMATION

DMAS offers a web-based Internet option to access information regarding Medicaid eligibility, claims status, check status, service limits, prior authorization, and pharmacy prescriber identification information. The website address to use to enroll for access to this system is <http://virginia.fhsc.com>. The MediCall voice response system will provide the same information and can be accessed by calling 800-884-9730 or 800-772-9996. Both options are available at no cost to the provider.

COPIES OF MANUALS

DMAS publishes electronic and printable copies of its provider manuals and Medicaid Memoranda on the DMAS website at www.dmas.virginia.gov (***please note the new DMAS website address***). Refer to the Provider Column to find Medicaid and SLH provider manuals or click on "Medicaid Memos to Providers" to view Medicaid Memoranda. The Internet is the most efficient means to receive and review current provider information. If you do not have access to the Internet, or would like a paper copy of a manual, you can order these by contacting Commonwealth-Martin at 804-780-0076. A fee will be charged for the printing and mailing of the manuals and manual updates requested.